

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 ISO-00  
SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 /068 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AVP:JMROBERTS:PMA  
APPROVED BY EB/OA/AVP:AJWHITE  
EA/K:FMISCH  
EUR/SOV:RPERITO  
NTSB:WHALNON  
L/EB:FWILLIS

-----018571 041537Z /72

P R 041521Z MAY 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 0235

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, US, JA, KS, PEPR, UR

SUBJECT: RECOVERY OF THE DOWNED KAL AIRCRAFT

REF: (A) STATE 106562; (B) SEOUL 3642; (C)  
MOSCOW 9410; (D) SEOUL 3696

1. THE DEPARTMENT IS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT KAL IS NOW  
FOCUSING ON THE DISPOSITION OF THEIR AIRCRAFT (REF D). IN  
SPITE OF POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MAY BE FULLY COMPENSATED  
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FOR ITS LOSS BY THEIR INSURANCE COMPANY, WE PRESUME  
THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT BE OVERLY KEEN WITH THE  
PROSPECT, AS THE TEMPERATURE CREEPS UP, OF AN INTACT  
LARGE AIRCRAFT GRADUALLY SINKING INTO THE SHALLOWS OF  
THE FROZEN LAKE ON WHICH IT LANDED. WE WOULD ALSO  
PRESUME THAT THE INSURANCE COMPANY, WHICH COULD POSSIBLY  
BE A NON-KOREAN FIRM, WOULD ALSO ATTEMPT TO CUT ITS

LOSS BY SALVAGING THE AIRCRAFT IN WHOLE OR IN PART. CONSEQUENTLY, THE DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO ANTICIPATE SOME KIND OF RECOVERY EFFORT. THEREFORE, ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE DAMAGE THE AIRCRAFT SUSTAINED AND KAL'S AIRCRAFT RECOVERY DELIBERATIONS WOULD BE HELPFUL TO BOEING AND OF INTEREST TO THE DEPARTMENT (SEE PARA 3, REF A).

2. IN REGARD TO THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION (REF B), NEITHER THE DEPARTMENT NOR THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD (NTSB) BELIEVES THAT ARTICLE 26 OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ("CHICAGO CONVENTION") REQUIRES THE SOVIETS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY WHICH FOLLOWS THE GUIDELINES CONTAINED IN ANNEX 13 TO THE CONVENTION (ANNEX 13 PERTAINS TO ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS). IN ADDITION, THE NTSB REPORTS THAT SINCE THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH LANDING IS NOT IN DISPUTE, AN "ACCIDENT" INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF ARTICLE 26 IS NOT ENVISIONED.

3. HOWEVER, SINCE THE SOVIETS ARE APPARENTLY CONDUCTING SOME KIND OF INQUIRY, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW IF IT IS BEING HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE "STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDED PRACTICES" OF ANNEX 13. AS THE EMBASSY WILL RECOGNIZE, SUCH AN INQUIRY WOULD GREATLY ENHANCE THE ABILITY OF THE GOK TO OBTAIN DATA WHICH REF D SUGGESTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEY MAY REQUEST FROM THE SOVIETS. ON THE CHANCE THAT THE INQUIRY DOES FOLLOW ANNEX 13, THE NTSB WOULD ACCEPT AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE EITHER AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COUNTRY OF REGISTRY (KOREA) OR IN THEIR OWN RIGHT AS THE COUNTRY OF MANUFACTURE. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE NTSB HAS INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT THAT SHOULD THE SOVIETS NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO INTERPRET THE B-707 VOICE AND FLIGHT RECORDERS, THE NTSB WILL DO SO FOR THEM. THIS OFFER IS REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE SOVIET INQUIRY FOLLOWS ANNEX 13.

4. THE DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES EMBASSY MOSCOW'S OBSERVATIONS (REF C) ON THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE SOVIETS ALLOWING A SURVEY TEAM TO EXAMINE THE AIRCRAFT. ALTHOUGH WE AGREE THAT THE INSPECTION AND PRESUMABLY ULTIMATE RECOVERY SHOULD BE LEFT IN COMMERCIAL CHANNELS, GIVEN THE ASSESSMENT OF THE SOVIETS ATTITUDE, THE DEPARTMENT EXPECTS TO RECEIVE AN APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE. IF AN APPEAL WERE RECEIVED, ONE TACK UNDER CONTEMPLATION IN THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE TO ASK THE SOVIETS AT NO CHARGE TO DISMEMBER THE AIRCRAFT, CRATE IT AND ALLOW A THIRD COUNTRY SHIP TO RETRIEVE THE CRATES AT MURMASK (MUCH IN

THE SAME MANNER AS THE SOVIETS RETRIEVED THEIR MIG 25  
FROM JAPAN).

5. REQUEST EMBASSY MOSCOW INFORM SOVIET AUTHORITIES OF  
NTSB OFFER OF ASSISTANCE PARA 3. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT DETENTION, NEGOTIATIONS, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE113549  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JMROBERTS:PMA  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780190-1086  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 54da98a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 106562, 78 SEOUL 3642  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2791050  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RECOVERY OF THE DOWNED KAL AIRCRAFT  
**TAGS:** EAIR, PEPR, US, JA, KS, UR  
**To:** SEOUL MOSCOW  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/54da98a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
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